

Mr Madhav Vempali FRCSEd FRCOphth Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

Patching instructions

The patch should be worn on the:

The patch should be worn for:

Your child is being treated for a condition called Amblyopia, for a poor vision in one eye. The good eye is being patched to make the lazy eye stronger. Proper motivation and compliance with the patching schedule is of great importance for successful treatment.

What type of patch should I use?

The best type of patch is a stick on eye patch to avoid peeking and cheating. These patches should never be used more than once.

When should I apply the patch?

You should apply the patch at a time when it will be easiest on you and your child. Patching is usually easiest when done outside of school and not around friends. Patching should not be done when your child is playing ball or riding a bike. Remember, Some of the child's depth perception will be affected while the patch is on. Any time the patch is on when your child is sleeping does not count.

How long should a patch for?

You should do that until the child is next appointment. If the vision is strong enough the patching may be stop at your next visit. If you haven't been patching consistently it is likely you will have to continue to patch indefinitely until the vision has improved. Remember, your child's vision can only be corrected during childhood years, there is no surgery that can fix amblyopia and it is not something that can be outgrown.

What if my child will not keep the patch on?

Your child must keep the patch on. Frequent reinforcement and rewards can help. If your child takes off patch you should replace it immediately. The first few days can be very difficult but children adapt quickly. The child does not understand the lifelong implications of amblyopia and may be really upset now, but will thank you for it when they are older. When all else fails elbow splints can be used, sometimes eye drops can be used instead and there may be other options depending on your child's condition.